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In re Application of
Gerhard Schmaus et al
Application No. 10/790,770
Filed: March 3, 2004
Attorney Docket No. 46347

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: **OFFICE OF PETITIONS**
: **DECISION ON PETITION**
: **UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)**
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This is a decision on the renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), filed August 19, 2004, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 365(c) for the benefit of priority to prior-filed PCT Application No. PCT/EP02/09793, filed March 9, 2002, set forth in the Application Data Sheet (ADS) submitted concurrently with the instant petition.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant pending application was filed on March 3, 2004, and was pending at the time of filing of the instant petition. A reference to the above-noted, prior-filed PCT application has been included in an ADS as required by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(iii).

The instant nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and the claim herein for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed PCT application is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). Also, the reference to prior-filed PCT application was submitted during the pendency of the instant nonprovisional application, for which the claim for benefit of priority is sought. See 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c). Accordingly, having found that the instant petition for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) to the prior-filed PCT application satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), the petition is granted.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed application under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) should not be construed as meaning that the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application. In order for the instant application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed application should not be construed as meaning that applicants are entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed application noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to Wan Laymon at (517) 272-3220.

This matter is being referred to Technology Center Art Unit 1621 for examination in due course, including consideration by the examiner of applicants' entitlement to claim benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) to the above-noted, prior-filed PCT application.



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